

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 0030 of the specification as filed with the following paragraph.

[0030] Based on the information obtained during the session, the application software 122 determines, in step 214, whether to send a new page to the user 102. If the application software 122 decides to send a new page, then the encoding engine encodes 204 and sends this new page with current state information for the user stored in hidden form fields. Steps 204 through 214 are thus repeated until the application software 112 decides not to send a new page. If the application software 122 decides not to send a new page, then the application software 122 determines 216 whether to store the session information for the current session. If the user 102 has configured a product during the session and requests to purchase this product or requests additional information regarding this product, then the host may wish to save the configuration and other session information, in a step 218. The additional information may include, for example, information identifying the user 102, contact information, billing information, etc. If the application software 122 decides to store the information, then the information is sent from the decoding engine 126 to the database 114 of the host 112. After the information is stored in database 114 or if the application software 112 decides not to store the information, the session is complete. If the information has not been stored in the database 114, then it will be lost when the user 102 closes the web browser 104. In an alternate embodiment, the user 102 may save the contents of the web browser 104 in memory 106, thus enabling the user 102 to restore the session information at a later time. In one embodiment, once the information has been stored in the database 114, the application software 112 resets the session information and the application server 120 sends to the user 102 a web page that does not contain any configuration information.